GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4835
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
SALINITY OF LAND
Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale salination of land in sugar producing States such as Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the extent and details of land cultivating sugarcane which has been affected due to salination, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(c): As per Central Soil Salinity Research Institute,Karnal-Indian Council of Agricultural Research (2005),about 8.60 million ha. area is suffering from the problem of salinity/alkalinity in the country,which includes 0.53 million ha.of Maharashtra State. The total area under sugarcane cultivation is 5.15 million ha. in the country, including 1.05 million ha. of Maharashtra State and no separate data about salinization due to sugarcane cultivation is available.

Both salinity and alkalinity are due to accumulation of salts at the root zone of crops and no separate estimates on extent of salinity and alkalinity area are available.In the areas where drainage is not adequate,ground water table is raised mainly due to seepage from unlined canals and excess application of irrigation water.The rise in ground water table brings the excessive harmful salts on the soil surface causing salinity.The accumulation of excess salt in the root zone, results in a partial or complete loss of soil productivity and the presence of such salt adversely effects the growth of most of crop plants

Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Reclamation and Development of Waterlogged and Salinity Area in Irrigated Command.Under this programme, both preventive as well as ameliorative measures are being taken to check salinity. The preventive measures include lining of canal in vulnerable reaches,On farm development works such as construction of lined field channels and field drains, rotational supply (warabandi) of irrigation water to farmers, conjunction use of surface and ground water, propagation of improved methods of irrigation among farmers through training, adaptive trials and demonstrations. Ameliorative measures include construction of surface and sub-surface drains, vertical drainage and bio-drainage for disposal of excess water and leaching of soils to flush out excess salts from root zone of crops.